

## Fort Worth Mental Health Clinic Moves to a New Facility

VANTHCS held an open house recently at the new Mental Health Clinic in Fort Worth. The clinic relocation is a win - win to have more space for mental health services and allow room for the outpatient clinic to open more medical clinics. Their new home is in the Plains Capital Bank Building at 6000 Western Place, Suite 300 in Fort Worth. The new state-of-the-art facility is approximately 9,400 square feet, and provides spacious office and clinic areas. Mental Health clinic staff from left to right are: Elizabeth John, MD; Janice Bennett, PhD; Donna Gerron, CTRS; Michael Lambert, MD; O'Vernis Roberts, LVN; Pamela Acker, Receptionist; Marian Holden, RN, PhD; Tara Saia Lewis, PhD; Connie D. Means, RN, MSN; Virgil M. Cox, MD; *not pictured*-David Benson, LCSW



courtesy of Jim Boyd



courtesy of Stan Harley

## Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center

joined the Disabled American Veterans to honor POW/MIA Day designated nationally as September 14th at the VA Park. The ceremony was held September 18th and featured flags that were flown over the Capitol buildings of Congressman Ralph Hall and State Representative Larry Phillips being presented to POW/MIAs. This is one of the most solemn and reverent ceremonies performed by the DAV that honors all POW/MIA veterans of all wars and their families.



Combined Federal Campaign goal for 2004 is \$155,000 by November 1, 2004. The CFC keyperson in your service will be contacting you. If we all participate, we can meet our goal!

***Please submit features or story ideas to  
Public Affairs (00A)***

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***Editor  
Penny Kerby***

***Photo Editor  
Nancy Gray***



## From the Director ...

October marks the end of another fiscal year, and we begin FY 05 under a continuing resolution - nothing new for VANTHCS. The budget forecast may be 'tight and partly cloudy,' but we're ready for the challenges ahead. No matter the hurdle, employees at VA North Texas always rise above to provide excellent care to our nation's heroes. I'm reminded every day that 'Freedom isn't free,' and I know the staff here joins me to do everything we can to show our veterans that their health and well being are our top priority.

**Alan G. Harper**

### Pride in Those We Serve

Two Schoolcraft brothers served in the military, Ernie in the Army and Bert in the Marines. When Bert and Ernie finished their service, they didn't stop giving and continue to share their warm spirits, laughter, and generosity. They live near each other in East Texas and farm together. Recently when they had too many watermelons after a bumper summer crop, Bert and Ernie loaded watermelons in their truck and brought them to patients at Dallas and Bonham. Everybody knows how sweet East Texas watermelons are!! We salute Bert and Ernie Schoolcraft - veterans helping veterans.

## Technology News: Medical and Research Developments

From Rheumawire at JointandBone.org - Musculoskeletal Disease Online. "The very fact that the number of these cardiovascular end points in rheumatoid arthritis are increased (regardless of the true nature of the association), behooves us to aggressively manage patients with RA with cardiovascular risk factors as if they already had coronary artery disease."

**Dr. Salahuddin Kazi**  
Chief, Rheumatology Section

**Dr. David Margolis** conducts laboratory studies to obtain new insights into the host-virus interaction, particularly in HIV infection, to aid in the treatment of chronic viral diseases. Drugs are being tested that may "drain" the persistent reservoirs of latent HIV infection. To date, no one with HIV infection has been cured, regardless of development of effective antiviral agents. Nevertheless, stable remission or cure of infection is the ultimate goal of HIV therapy. These studies give novel insights into the basic molecular mechanisms of eukaryotic gene expression, and may lead to new therapeutic approaches for HIV infection.

VA Invention reduces OR Scalpel Injuries: Orthopedic Technician **Brian Reaux** invented and introduced the "Scalpel Caddy" first at Dallas VA Medical Center to reduce accidental sharps injuries in the operating room. Featured in the July 2004 issue of U.S. Medicine, the small box-like structure holds up to four

scalpels and eliminates the risks with passing sharp instruments during surgery.

Dallas is the first VA to implement the "Scalpel Caddy" and also does the training. **Dr. Richard E. Jones**, Chief of Orthopedic Surgery, said the caddy was so well liked that it would be expanded to all the services.



Physician reaches for scalpel placed in caddy, thereby avoiding hand to hand passing with a nurse.



## Election 2004 - Don't Forget to Vote

Dallas VA Medical Center will serve as a site for early voting. Registered voters in Dallas County may take advantage of early voting for the November 2, 2004, Presidential Election in the main concourse of the Clinical Addition as follows:

October 18-22, 2004 (Monday thru Friday): 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

October 23, 2004 (Saturday): 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

October 24, 2004 (Sunday): 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.

October 25-29, 2004 (Monday thru Friday): 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

### We do Make a Difference

I was in the Dallas area recently due to my mother's illness. Unfortunately, my visit was extended due to complications, and I ran out of my medications. I had difficulties getting them refilled at a local chain and was referred to the Canteen Retail Pharmacy at Dallas VA Medical Center. David Clay Griffin was extremely helpful, and I wanted to make sure he and VCS Chief Ty Wallace knew how much I appreciated the VCS Pharmacy and Mr. Griffin's helpful service at a difficult time.

Dollie Luna

Thank you so much for the lovely memorial service for the veterans who had passed away. My brother had been treated at your facility over the course of several years. He lost his battle with lung cancer but always had good things to say about his treatment there and the doctors who cared for him. My daughter and I attended the service and left with a good feeling that he had indeed been cared for by loving and caring people.

Sandra Lawton

My recent experience with care provided to my late husband, Felix Froese, by the Dallas Veterans Administration Hospital and Transitional Care Unit staff should reassure taxpayers that their dollars are being well spent for the benefit of this country's veterans. During a long-term illness, my husband received treatment and care at both facilities, and I was pleased to witness the kind of consideration and concern rarely found in any medical facility - public or private. Not only were all of his medical needs addressed promptly and professionally, but he also received personal, compassionate attention from staff members that went well beyond "medicine as usual." In particular, I want to commend my husband's attending physician, Dr. Barry O'Neal; Physician Assistant Mindy Greenberg; and Social Worker Christine Cantrell. All three showed my husband and me genuine kindness and care, making my husband's last days less burdensome and difficult. This experience has shown me that America does care about and remember its veterans, and is willing to put its dollars to work in tangible ways to care for those who have sacrificed for us all.

Elizabeth Froese



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**The Stars are big and bright ....  
deep in the heart of VA North Texas!!**

**Carlissa Cooper**, Dialysis Technician in Medical Service, received Clinical Hemodialysis Technician Certification.

**Roderick Hooker**, Physician Assistant in Medical Service, was selected as U.S. Delegate to the 8th International Medical Workforce Collaborative.

**James Jones**, Anesthesia Technician in Anesthesiology & Pain Management Service, passed the Anesthesia Technician Certification exam and is now a Certified Anesthesia Technician via the American Society of Anesthesia Technologists and Technicians.

**Dr. Jeffrey Kenkel**, Chief, Plastic Surgery Section was named the first holder of the Rod J. Rohrich, MD, Distinguished Professorship in Wound Healing and Plastic Surgery at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas.

**Dr. Craig Malloy**, ACOS for Research, received the Richard A. Lange Chair in Cardiology at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas for Cardiology Research.

**Virginia Poffenberger**, Research Assistant, was named National Vice-Chairman, South Central Division, Service to Veterans Committee of National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

**George Sarosi**, MD, Assistant Chief, Surgical Service, received the VISN 17 New Investigator Award.

**Sharon Simrin**, Nurse Practitioner in Mental Health, was named to the 2004 Great 100 Nurses. Also honored was **Virginia Warren**, RN in Pulmonary Medicine, who was nominated last year but activated to military service.

**Kosaku Uyeda**, PhD, Research Scientist, was invited to teach at Osaku University in Japan September-December.

VANTHCS recognizes these employees for assisting in relief efforts in the recent Florida Hurricanes: Mental Health-**Mary Nguyen**; Surgical Service-**Mirenda White**; Executive Office-**Bill Bossert**; Nursing Service-**Furqan Khan**, **Diana Pulsipher**, **Robin Hunter**, **Pamela Ajayi**; Medical Service-**Jill Horn**, **Patty Houser**; Engineering Service-**Ronald Crook**.



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4500 S. Lancaster Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75216  
214 742-8387

Fort Worth Outpatient Clinic  
300 W. Rosedale  
Fort Worth, TX 76104  
817 335-2202

Sam Rayburn Memorial Veterans Center  
1201 E. Ninth St.  
Bonham, TX 75418  
903 583-2111

**[www.north-texas.med.va.gov](http://www.north-texas.med.va.gov)**